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› August 2021



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# Characteristics of Employment, Australia

Weekly earnings of employees, casual workers, independent contractors, trade union membership, labour hire, job flexibility, job security

Reference period August 2021

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Released 14/12/2021

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## Key statistics

- Median employee earnings increased \$50 (4.3%) between August 2020 and August 2021, to \$1,200 per week.
- 2.4 million casual employees (23% of employees, 19% of all employed), down from 2.6 million in May 2021.
- 41% of employed people regularly worked from home, up from 32% in August 2019.
- 1.0 million independent contractors (7.8% of all employed).

From August 2020, statistics from the Characteristics of Employment survey are now published in three topic-based releases. See:

- [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release\)](#), August 2021
- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-](#)

[arrangements/latest-release](#)), August 2021

- [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release\)](#), August 2020 (updated biennially)

Characteristics of Employment data for 2014 to 2021 will be available in [TableBuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia\)](#) from 14 December 2021. TableBuilder enables the creation of customised tables and graphs.

Spreadsheets containing data prior to 2021 can be found in the [2020 release \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/characteristics-employment-australia/aug-2020\)](#). In 2022, the ABS will update the spreadsheets to include the timeseries format used in monthly Labour Force statistics and recently implemented for the February 2021 release of [Participation, Job Search and Mobility \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia/latest-release\)](#). When this occurs, each spreadsheet will contain timeseries data for the 2014 to 2021 period, to facilitate automatic downloads and “data scraping,” with each timeseries provided a unique series identifier.

## Data downloads

These Characteristics of Employment spreadsheets are also available in the Data downloads section of the relevant [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#) and [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-arrangements/latest-release#data-downloads\)](#) releases.

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Table 1a - Median earnings for employees by sex, state and full-time or part-time, 2004–2021

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[160.76 KB]

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Table 1b - Median earnings for employees by sex, state and status of employment, 2004–2021

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[161.92 KB]

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Table 1c - Median earnings for employees by state, full-time or part-time and status of employment, 2004–2021

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[164.78 KB]

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Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics and full-time or part-time, 2021

[!\[\]\(4729e517bc6a7cd81c8025b9646574fb\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[122.79 KB]

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Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry, 2021

[!\[\]\(cbe2492b119e39e02a1dab2af4a4b296\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[113.22 KB]

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Table 4 - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level, 2021

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[85.49 KB]

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Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification, 2021

[!\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[79.36 KB]

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Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification, 2021

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[100.22 KB]

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Table 7 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by working arrangements, 2021

[!\[\]\(28f72b996fc97883dfd9d4e8b1b16b4e\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[102.4 KB]

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Table 8 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics, 2021

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[107.79 KB]

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Table 9 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics, 2021

[!\[\]\(a25a22d88c5882f4a20f36103df86562\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[69.5 KB]

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Table 10 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification, 2021

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[79.66 KB]

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6333.0\*.

Prior to 2014, statistics related to employee earnings, trade union membership and working arrangements were published in:

- [Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6310.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6310.0>) (catalogue number 6310.0)
- [Forms of Employment, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6359.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6359.0>) (catalogue number 6359.0)
- [Working Time Arrangements, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6342.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6342.0>) (catalogue number 6342.0)
- [Locations of Work, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6275.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/6275.0>) (catalogue number 6275.0) (includes data on working from home)
- [Employment Benefits, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6334.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6334.0>) (catalogue number 6334.0)
- [Trade Union Members, Australia](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6325.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6325.0>) (catalogue number 6325.0)

\*Note: Catalogue number 6333.0 was previously used for [Working Conditions, Australia \(Preliminary\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-May%201979?OpenDocument) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-May%201979?OpenDocument>), Feb to May 1979.

## Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2021](#)